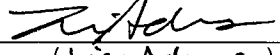


I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: July 13, 2007 Signature:   
(Lisa Adams)

Docket No.: 101896-366 (DEP5181)  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Bryan S. Jones et al.

Application No.: 10/813,904

Filed: March 31, 2004

For: HEAD-TO-HEAD CONNECTOR SPINAL  
FIXATION SYSTEM

Confirmation No.: 5037

Art Unit: 3733

Examiner: A. Yang

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 18, 2007, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.

Two **Replacement Sheets** of drawing figures are attached hereto.